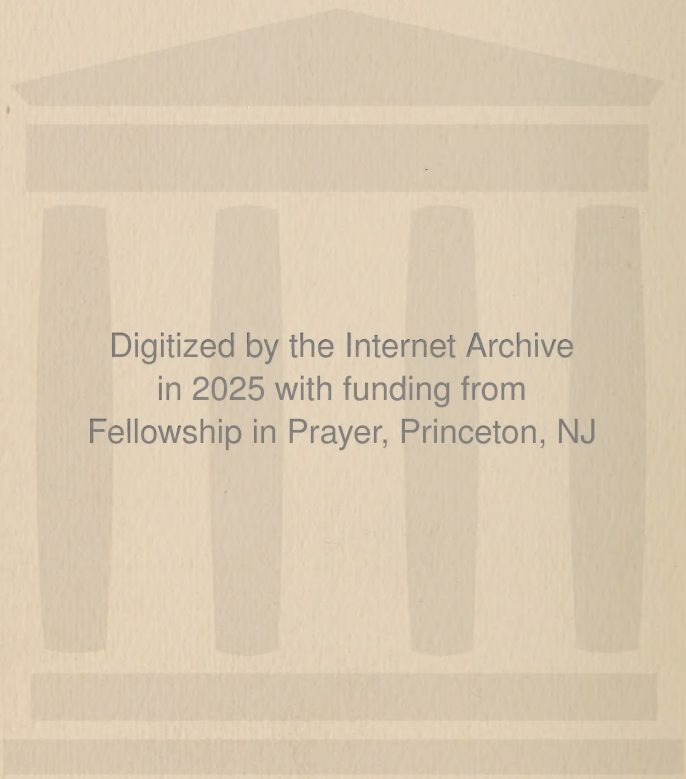
Fellowship in Prayer

"For a world united in prayer"

"For the happiness of our earthly life;
For peaceful homes and healthful days;
For our powers of mind and body;
For faithful friends;
For the joy of loving and being loved--
We Thank Thee Lord." Amen.

Volume VI August 1955 Number 4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APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE

By Grenville Kleiser

LOOK ALWAYS FOR THE PLEASANT, THE BEAUTIFUL, AND THE CONSTRUCTIVE. Life is too precious to be frittered away on useless, negative, depressing things.

CULTIVATE A SPIRIT OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE. Seek the best in everything. Be thankful for the privilege of life, the opportunity to give and serve. Do not wait for great occasions on which to render special service, but remember that small giving may be true and helpful giving. Considering that God has given so much to you, you cannot possibly give too much to others. Think highly of those about you, and give them the benefit and encouragement of your most generous thoughts.

Your mental habits have a vital influence in shaping the character and productiveness of your daily work. Confidence and belief in your own ability to achieve will speed your progress. Your mind is a wonderful workshop, in which you plan, systematize, devise, invent, and picture ideas which are subsequently to be expressed in material form—

AN APPRECIATIVE AND RECEPTIVE MIND IS A PROGRESSIVE MIND.

Thank God for dawn,
The songs of birds,
Awakening earth,
And browsing herds.

Thank God for work,
And well-filled day,
For power to serve
The joyous way.

Thank God for friends
And fireside talks,
Inspiring books,
And pleasant walks.

Thank God for night
And Silence deep,
Protecting Love,
And peaceful sleep.

ON LEARNING HOW TO PRAY

(Preached recently at the Hitchcock Memorial Church, Scarsdale, N.Y. by the Pastor, Dr. Robert Wells Youngs and re-printed with his kind permission.)

This church is learning how to pray. We now have two prayer groups with increasing attendance at each. Greater emphasis is being placed upon devotional life at nearly all meetings in the church. The prayer phone has been used with increasing frequency. And yet, we still have a great deal to learn about praying.

A few months ago, I surprised a group of men in the church by calling upon each of them to pray in a meeting. After the meeting, one of them took me aside and said: "There isn't a thing we men wouldn't do for you, but before you ask it, please tell us how to do it." Therefore, I decided to preach a sermon on the subject, HOW TO PRAY.

The first lesson in praying might very well be on how to pray *INTELLIGENTLY*. This does not mean that we have to be theologians before we can pray. Indeed, prayer is one of the most natural functions of life, so inherently a part of human nature that we might almost think of it as an instinct. Thomas Carlyle was right when he wrote to a friend that prayer is and remains the native and deepest impulse of the soul of man. As William James once suggested, we pray because we can't help praying.

Nevertheless, we pray more readily and effectively when we know something about prayer. Everyone should know two things about prayer.

Certainly one should know what prayer is. There are of course, almost as many definitions of prayer as there are people who have tried to define it. Mrs. Browning defined prayer as a wish turned heavenward. The hymn writer defines prayer as—

. . .the soul's sincere desire
Uttered or unexpressed,
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

Coleridge in the "Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner" said:

He prayeth best who loveth best
All things both great and small
For the dear Lord who loveth us
He made and loveth all.

The dictionary describes prayer as: "An earnest request or petition to God." I myself like to think of prayer as any words or deed consciously spoken or performed in commun-

ion and fellowship with God. At any rate, in learning how to pray it is well to have some conception of the scope of prayer.

Then too, if we are to pray intelligently, we need to know the forms of prayer. Prayer is not a form; it is a force. However, it increases its force when we follow certain forms just as water in a stream turns into water power when it is channeled. The forms of prayer help us to outline our prayers in logical and orderly arrangements. They are a pattern to follow which makes praying easier, — especially praying in public. What are the forms of prayer?

Any prayer might well begin with an *ASCRIPTION;* that is, with some way of addressing God. Usually it should recognize the Omnipotence, the Lordship and the goodness of God. For example, we might begin a prayer by saying: "Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts." This may very properly be followed by a second form of prayer, a *PRAYER OF CONFESSION.* When we are mindful of God, and we cannot pray without being mindful, we realize our own unworthiness — our pettiness, our furtiveness, and our evil ways compared with the glory, the purity, and the Bigness of God. Being so aware, what can we do but acknowledge our shortcomings. This naturally leads to an appreciation of God in what we call a *PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING.* Any way you want to look at it, we own nothing that we have, we are but trustees of God. Who would be so ungrateful as to fellowship with God without at least mentioning his goodness. And then after confessing our faults and expressing our gratitude we are perhaps justified in speaking to God about our needs in what is called a *PRAYER OF PETITION.* We are weak and we need strength; we are sick and we need healing; we are discouraged and we need hope; sorrowful and we need comfort; blind and we need insight; frustrated and we need opportunity. So we ask God for these needs. But who has a right to think of himself without thinking of others who are worse off. Who can bring himself to a God of Love and a Father of All Mankind without offering a *PRAYER OF INTERCESSION* for his brothers, for all sorts and conditions of men, the poor and the ignorant, the friendless and the lonely, the tempted and the unbelieving? We are told in many ways in the teaching of Jesus that we

cannot expect God to be more concerned for us than we are for others. In this connection, Dr. McCracken of Riverside Church has referred to an area in England where an immense Ford factory now stands. It seems that it was necessary to investigate the history of the area as a prelude to building the factory. One of the first purchasers was a certain John Ward, a member of parliament, who bought it when it was flooded and therefore cheap, and then had a bill passed in the House of Commons to drain it at public expense. After his death, there was found among his papers this extra-ordinary prayer:

"O Lord, Thou knowest I have mine estates in the City of London.....and likewise in the County of Essex. I beseech Thee to preserve the two counties of Middlesex and Essex from fire and earthquake. . . . for the rest of the counties, Thou mayest deal with them as Thou art pleased."

After quoting this prayer Dr. McCracken makes the following comment: "I hope I am not a malicious person but you can't possibly know the mild and quiet satisfaction it affords me to tell you that John Ward died in debtors' prison, and the fact that he died where he did does not shake in the least my confidence in the efficacy of prayer." Nor should it shake our confidence in prayer. Prayer appropriates the concern of God when it is concerned with others. Along with prayers of confession, thanksgiving, and petition must go a prayer of intercession for others. That is how to pray intelligently.

In the second place, we should learn how to pray *UNSELFISHLY*. Someone may ask, how can I offer a prayer of petition that is not selfish? How can I bring my need for health, strength, prosperity, peace, etc., before God without being selfish? The answer is, by having an unselfish reason for what we seek in prayer. Let us pray for life, not to escape death, but to finish some earthly task which we have assumed. Let us pray for peace not to avoid the cost of war, but to have a change to realize the possibilities of brotherhood. Let the end of our petitionary prayers not be ourselves but some purpose beyond ourselves. Effectual prayer can never be an instrument of selfishness.

In the third place, we must learn how to pray *RECEPTIVELY*. In other words prayer is not what we tell God as much as what we receive from God. Prayer is a conversation with God and as in all polite conversation, we should give a part to Him with whom we are conversing. Savonarola said

that the Saints in his day were so busy talking to God that they could not hear Him. God has his own way of answering prayer. We ask for all things with which to enjoy life, he may give us life to enjoy all things. We ask for strength to do bigger things; he may give us weakness to do better things. As the poet has written:

I asked for bread, God gave me a stone instead
Yet, while I pillowed there my weary head,
The Angels made a ladder of my dreams
Which upward to celestial mountains led.
And when I woke beneath the morning's beams
Around my resting place fresh manna lay;
And praising God, I went upon my way,
For I was fed.

We miss most of the benefits of prayer when it is simply a matter of what we are telling God. Effectual prayer demands that we accept the answer of God.

Finally, in learning how to pray let us remember to pray *JOYFULLY*. Some people go into mourning when they pray. A painful expression covers their face, a laborious note enters their voice, they sigh and groan as though prayer were anything but an experience with Him who is the Spirit of Joy and the Dispenser of Happiness. I am told that some of our Catholic neighbors took their little three year old daughter to church with them one Sunday morning. When the priest rang the little bell which symbolizes God, the child exclaimed, "Mother, it's the Good Humor man." Ah, little girl, you have a clearer understanding of God than some theologians I know. He is the God of Good Humor and every experience with him should be a happy one.

The other day I came across this prayer offered by a Rev. Jim Maloy at a Georgia camp meeting:

"O Laud, give Thy servant dis mawning de eyes ob de eagle, and de wisdom ob de owl; connect his soul wid de gospel telephone in de central skies; luminate his brow wid de sun ob heaven; turpentine his imagination; grease his lips wid possum oil; loosen his tongue wid de sledge hammer ob Thy power; 'lectrify his brain wid de lightning ob Thy word; fill him plum full ob dynamite ob Thy glory; 'noint him all over wid kerosine ob Thy salvation and den, deah Laud--- set him on fire."

I don't recommend such a prayer for a Presbyterian Church, but I do suggest that we learn to pray in such a way that we emerge from this experience not of sad countenance as Jesus described the hypocrites, but on fire with real joy and enthusiasm for having been with God.

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THANKSGIVING

LET US GIVE THANKS that "the Spirit of God hath made me and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "Thou hast made known to me the ways of life."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "we are the children of God and if children, then heirs, heirs of God."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "with God all things are possible."

LET US GIVE THANKS that we may "show forth thy loving kindness in the morning and thy faithfulness every night."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things he possesseth."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "they who seek the Lord, shall not want any good thing."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "we may commit thy works unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "it is not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "all things are possible to him that believeth."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "there is no power but of God."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "every plant which our Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

LET US GIVE THANKS that "the Lord is light unto all them that call upon Him."

LET US GIVE THANKS that we may "rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto."

LET US GIVE THANKS that the power of our "Word is very high unto Thee, in Thy mouth and in Thy heart that thou mayest do it."

--S. A. S.
(Sent by Mrs. Thomas M. Taylor)

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SOUNDS OF BEAUTY

There are so many things to hear
  That make a better world.
The Spring wind playing in the trees
  Whose leaves are yet unfurled,
The sleepy sound of murmuring rain,
  The cheery songs of birds—
All golden melodies are these
  Beyond descriptive words.
A certain step, a voice we love
  Are cradled in our heart.
The beauty of so many sounds
  Give each a world apart.

--By Aloise Tracy.

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A MARVELOUS GIFT! — (APPRECIATION)

By W. J. Thompson, D.D.

It is so easy to persuade ourselves that there is little we can give to help others—but that is a great mistake! I once heard a man say: "If only I were rich how much good I could do!" This has been called *"GIVING AWAY WHAT WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED!"* Such imagined generosity is sheer folly. The real question is, not what you would do with a million dollars - (which you do *NOT* possess) - but what are you doing with the few dollars you actually have in your purse at this moment?

No matter what may be the state of your finances there are certain precious gifts which even the humblest person can bring for the blessing of others. John Ruskin declared, *"The most obscure among us has some gift which is peculiar to him, and this, worthily used, will enrich mankind."*

Longfellow exclaimed, *"Give what you have. To someone it may be better than you dare to think."* And turning to the New Testament I read in Luke 11:41 *"Give such things as you have."* The revised version states: *"Give those things which are within."* You may reply, — "All this sounds interesting, but can you be more specific and actually name some gift an ordinary person can offer that will help others?" Here is my answer, "No matter how limited our finances, we can all be generous with that marvelous gift called—APPRECIATION! People everywhere are grateful for appreciation. I do not mean flattery or insincere compliments. Such offerings are unworthy of acceptance. *BUT GENUINE APPRECIATION IS NEEDED."* One writes, "Most of us need a word of praise now and then. Probably if parents gave it more frequently, and if employers were more lavish with appreciation the psychoanalysts would get a rest from the rush of patients suffering from inferiority complexes. Fame and wealth may outrun us entirely, yet we cannot help longing for just a little more human recognition of our efforts. The warmth of appreciation is beneficial for the health of our self-respect.

A little word of praise - what joy it brings,
And how it cheers the very soul of things!
A little word of praise - we cannot know
The bounds to which the spoken thought may go!
Appreciation seems a little thing—
A word of praise - like music - makes us sing!

Phillips Brooks declared: "To say 'Well done' to any bit of good work is to take hold of the powers which have made the effort and strengthen them beyond our knowledge! I beg you, do not be lacking in appreciation. Hearts are hungry for it. Give appreciation generously, and you will never regret it." All around us are people who are facing difficult circumstances. Disappointment follows disappointment until the sunshine disappears. and they are ready to give up trying. Just a word of appreciation will often bring new courage and stimulate them to successful effort.

Dr. Rainsford tells us that when he was a young man he made a speech at a public meeting in Boston. He was supposed to speak for twenty minutes, but he became confused, lost his nerve, and after uttering a few frightened sentences he suddenly sat down, feeling he had failed miserably! At the conclusion of the meeting he was sitting alone, with head bowed in humiliation, when he felt a hand on his shoulder, and a kind voice said, "Mr. Rainsford, will you do me the honor to preach for me next Sunday in Trinity Church?" The speaker was the great hearted Phillips Brooks, minister of a famous church, inviting that discouraged youth to preach for him. "That night was the turning point in my life," said Dr. Rainsford, "For Phillips Brooks, a famous preacher, showed his confidence in me, and his words gave me new courage just when I needed it most!"

"Through your great faith in me –
I have achieved,
Had you ignored me then I would have failed!
But knowing that in me you firm believed–
I dare not disappoint you - so prevailed!"

Appreciation is truly a marvelous gift—and it can even transform trials into triumphs.

Henry Drummond declared,— "There are some men and women in whose company we are at our best! Their very presence encourages us, bringing definite elevation of spirit!" One of the Alumni of Wellesley College, in the days when Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer was president, wrote: "Mrs. Palmer had a wonderful effect on me. She gave me a feeling of hope and courage, and after meeting her I felt I could do things, I never dreamed of before she spoke to me!"

Such helpfulness does not impoverish the giver, but actually bestows a double blessing on both giver and recipi-

ent. A dear friend of mine, the late Sir William Robertson Nicoll, once remarked to me: "It is one of the beautiful facts of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without doing good to himself!"

Life has a strange way of paying us back in our own coin!

Appreciation is a fragrant gift, and as you bestow it on others it leaves a delightful aroma in your own life!

"The Lord God made us to be brothers,
None goes his way alone;
What we send to the lives of others
Comes back into our own!"

Never say, I have no gift to offer others, for that is not true! No matter who you are, prominent or obscure, and no matter how limited your circumstances, *YOU CAN GIVE APPRECIATION TO THOSE YOU MEET.*

George Eliot's question comes to us all, "What do we live for—if not to make the world a little less difficult for each other?" Remember, all around you are those who really need the very gift you can bestow. It is not a question of money, or intellectual brilliance, but it is simply this—are you willing to give appreciation to those who cross your path?

If you have helped one single soul
To find new hope again
And face with confidence life's goal--
You have not lived in vain!

Give the marvelous gift of appreciation and find your own life shining with new splendor as you bring inspiration to others!

"There isn't any danger in the kindly things you say,
There isn't any sorrow in a thoughtful, helpful deed.
No deep regret awaits you at the close of such a day,
There's always joy in knowing you have been a friend in need!"

The greatest need in the world today is the need for a new kind of spiritual teaching—a teaching adequate to the people of the present time. "*SPIRITUAL*" not in the old sense of religious dogma but in the sense of knowledge from the highest viewpoint, knowledge in relation to the highest truths and the highest development of individual man. —*Anon.*

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The day of miracles is not past. At least, in Fellowship in Prayer, enough has occured in five years to warrant such a statement. Still more broadly - looking about us - it would appear that we are entering a period of miracle development. In fact, we would like to write at length on the closeness of the soul to pure materialism—

But, we are living in the ever-present, and time moves rapidly with lightning-like changes. This is not good for man and so we take time out to read a few estimates of those who have observed the growth of Fellowship in Prayer and are willing to voice their opinion. We are grateful, indeed, for these appreciative remarks. We regret that space does not permit the inclusion of others.

These good people also know the value of time taken to absorb the God-given beauties of life and to find the peace which quietness in His tabernacle means.

And so, in retrospect, we pause to thank God for all His mercies—for all friends who have given means and encouragement to go forward. Yes, and even for those who have strewn discouragement along our path—for this, too, has its value—a testing of faith.

We recognize the chastening power in events of life which called for determination and courage. We thank the good Lord for the grace to travel on through days of anguish and trial.

Likewise, for the promise of the future do we praise our Creator. For the assurances from Holy Writ of God's Eternal Presence. For all that life doth hold in want or plenty, woe or joy, and success or adversity do we give thanks.

Thus, we face the future, knowing full well that the financial sponsorship so needed for Fellowship in Prayer will be supplied through the grace of God and that the spiritual regeneration which the world sorely needs will be fully assured.

"Faith is not merely praying
Upon your knees at night;
Faith is not merely straying
Through darkness to the light.

"Faith is the brave endeavor
The splendid enterprise,
The strength to serve, whatever
Conditions may arise."

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Roy Wallace Thomas *(Retired pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church in Colorado).*

"I have been re-examining many copies of FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER issued during the past five years. I find the magazine remarkably true to the spiritual needs of men. Its worth is far beyond its mechanical size. It is wiser than most people in its discriminating wisdom. It stresses the priceless values. It seeks to rise above temperament and the "conditioned reflex" to see truth and life with an unfettered mind. It is like the householder in Jesus' parable who brought forth the best of what is new and what is old. It is fortunate in its editor. We are indebted to him for his insight, his wisdom and his creative energy. May Fellowship in Prayer grow and grow!"

~

Willard A. Pleuthner *(Advertising Executive and Author of "Building Up Your Congregation").*

"Religious people should be fivefold thankful for Fellowship in Prayer on its fifth anniversary: — *FIRST*, we should be glad that a group of devoted people has recognized the need for helping us in the practice of prayer; *SECOND*, we should appreciate how this fellowship enables us to share in the experiences of others; *THIRD*, our thanks go out for the constructive suggestions we find in each issue of the magazine; *FOURTH*, we welcome the sermons and religious editorials which inspire us to pray more frequently and more specifically; and *FIFTH*, we thank God for Fellowship in Prayer to keep us ever mindful of the great goal— *"For a World United in Prayer".*

~

Mrs. Walter Ferguson *(Scripps-Howard Columnist) Tulsa, Oklahoma.*

"It was my privilege to join in speaking for a Fellowship in Prayer five years ago. Today, I believe even more firmly that prayer can work miracles. We are partners with God in building a better society and a better world for all humanity. Let all men pray together that He will give us able hands, hearts and minds to carry out His will—but before we dare to ask that He work for us, let *US* strengthen *OUR* resolve to work with God. FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER keeps us in touch with our spiritual kin and will direct our thinking towards honest and effective prayer."

~

J. Leighton Stuart *(former Ambassador to China)*

"I have watched the growth of Fellowship in Prayer during the past five years, with much interest as it entered a long neglected religious field. Many of us in China, of different beliefs, worked for a better understanding and felt we were making progress. However, the vision of *all* faiths in the world, working and cooperating together for the betterment of mankind, has developed into more than a dream. Surely the efforts of Fellowship in Prayer have cast their influence in the spiritual awakening now so evident in our midst."

Emilie, Lady Coote *of England and America.*

"Even those of us who know the efficacy of prayer are often beset by challenges. Fellowship through prayer is of the spirit and we are thus strengthened ourselves and enabled to reach out to enfold our fellow men. As members of Fellowship in Prayer, we are blessed with a confidence that every human being is important to God. We know that the improvement in feeling and attitude between the world powers must be due to the prayers of people the world over who yearn for peace and a right to happiness. We are grateful for the past five years and continue prayerfully to advance, secure in our faith, toward the unity of all people in God."

~

John S. Pillsbury *(Honorary Chairman of Board, Pillsbury Mills, Inc.) Minneapolis, Minn.*

"Fellowship in Prayer has furnished its readers with many excellent articles, which should be of great assistance to them in their spiritual life.

All Christians, Jews, Moslems, Buddhists, etc., must consider daily prayer as most essential in their relation to their God. Many of us do not know how to pray and Fellowship in Prayer should be a great help in this respect.

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER is a most excellent publication."

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G. Wallace Tibbetts *(Counsellor at Law) Boston, Mass.*

"Fellowship in Prayer provides one of the outstanding examples of cooperative efforts to bring harmony through prayer to nations and among individuals.

The Fellowship has been founded to bring *TRUTH* to all peoples, to teach that *FAITH* is the foundation upon which Eternal Life depends and finally that prayer lifts our minds and souls to the Throne above.

May the blessings of the Holy Trinity be upon it."

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Dr. L. Carrington Goodrich *(Author and Professor - Columbia University) New York City.*

"I find FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER always helpful. It brings comfort, stimulus, fresh ideas, old thoughts beautifully expressed in just the right proportion. I like its catholicity, and I enjoy the frequent quotations from our wise elder statesman: Dr. Hocking. Long may it continue!

Mrs. Bennie Caroline Hall *(Author and Editor) North Abington, Mass. and Athens, Greece.*

"I consider it a real privilege to be included among the friends and advisors of Fellowship in Prayer. I know of no other organization that so adequately, so sincerely, fulfills its purpose: *'To promote the practice of prayer among all religious faiths whose fundamental belief is in God. . .'* And certainly there can be no higher objective than: *'...A World United in Prayer.'*"

Dr. Harry M. Lydenberg *(former Director — New York Public Library) Greensboro, N. C.*

"How can we advance without fellowship? The Master chose HIS Twelve. How can we go forward without prayer, to voice hopes, to say thanks? The more the world agrees on the need of both fellowship and of prayer, the further it strides forward on that better path!"

Shao Chang Lee *(Professor at - Michigan State College) East Lansing, Michigan.*

"FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER has met a great spiritual need. Its articles, poems and prayers are timely, thought-provoking, enlightening and inspiring. In it I have found the uniqueness of the Christian faith and the manifestation of the spirit of brotherhood and good will. By its sympathetic presentation of the good, the true and the beautiful of other religions, it has awakened the spirit of toleration and appreciation, so that all may work creatively — *'For a World United in Prayer.'*

Congratulations on the fifth anniversary of its founding!"

Dr. William Hiram Foulkes *(Pastor-Emeritus, Old First Church - Newark, N. J.)*

"Prayer is a fellowship which binds men together with the heart of the universe. To the Christian it is fellowship through the Spirit with the ever-living Christ. As one, whose daily prayer list includes loved ones and friends and causes, may I testify to the worth of FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER."

Dr. H. H. K'ung *(former minister of Finance of China) New York City.*

"The purpose of Fellowship in Prayer - *for a world united in prayer* - is fine and noble, and one in which I heartily join. It has been a great pleasure to receive the publication.

You may have heard of the prayer group formed in Taiwan, which is doing rather successful work, and which Madame K'ung and I are happy to support."

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RELIGIONS' RESPONSIBILITY

By Roy Wallace Thomas

All the higher religions believe in God. All religionists practice prayer. This highlights a startling tragedy of history. At the end of 6,000 years of religious belief and practice came the three most deadly of all wars. The stage is being set for a war that would destroy man if the cobalt bomb were used. This is cause for chagrin and humility. What is the matter?

Why haven't the religions cured men of brutality? Is it due to wrong thinking, to wrong practice? Are the vestigial remains of superstition too dominant? The religions cannot escape responsibility for human survival.

Science was held back in its progress until it freed itself absolutely from superstition. Can the religions save man from himself unless they also purge themselves of all superstition? Must they not practice the humility essential to scientists? In the present so-called revival of religion, both Protestant and Catholic, along with the good, we see throw-backs to all the things that made religion in the past defeat itself.

The religions will become the dominating factor in human survival in the day that they totally banish superstition, reveal a true vision of the goodness of God, and join hands and hearts in prayer to this basic Power of the universe. The religions must respond fully to the real God whose quality, incarnated in the hearts of men, will make mankind one in love and justice.

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GRATITUDE

By Sara Robbins

GRATITUDE is an attribute of wisdom. A wise man values the little things in life. He finds joy only in that which he appreciates—all else are appendages. Too often opportunities slip by—talents lie dormant—fortunes dissipate — possessions diminish where there is no gratitude to hold them.

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Gratitude is one of the most violated precepts of life. In the mad rush of living one overlooks the precious and the sacred; one overlooks and ignores the very essence that sustains him, life itself.

Gratitude is an important principle for achievement. To be grateful for the small opportunities is to magnify them. Ungratefulness tends to diminish and decrease. Gratitude is prolific in its blessings—it is life's great multiplier.

There is nothing intelligent in taking things for granted. Life recalls its gifts if there is lack of appreciation. Fortunes become dissipated, opportunities slip by, possessions diminish and talents rot, where there is no recognition and thankfulness.

Thankfulness has become a byword, a mere lip service, seldom an expression of the heart. We say "thank you" to everything, but we are not grateful for everything. *Gratitude is a feeling—not just a word.* It is genuine appreciation, giving all things significant value and approval.

He who cannot appreciate the little things in life can never attain the greater ones. Only those who are grateful for their blessings deserve to have them multiplied.

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Do not look for the flaws as you go through life,
And, even when you find them
It's wise and kind to be somewhat blind
And look for the virtues behind them.

--Author Unknown.

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"FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER" AND THE COVER

The response to "*SOMETHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT*" in the June issue of FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER was voluminous and we thank you one and all.

The overwhelming answer is indicated by the cover of this issue. We like it too!

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The world's debt to Albrecht Durer for his "Praying Hands" and the comfort and inspiration they have meant to so many, can hardly be estimated. Fellowship in Prayer could not have found another expression for its purpose that would have been more beloved. This, we learn from our correspondence.

Helen Dudley Young has noted this and has created some lovely plaques of the hands in relief on a plain border ready for hanging. They are beautifully modeled and come in two finishes—a wood tone and a copper tone. The immortal story behind the "Praying Hands" will be found on the reverse side.

Fellowship in Prayer can offer these to you as gift items suitable for any occasion. The cost is $1.95 each and they can be gift-wrapped in Christmas paper with a card enclosed giving the name of the person making the gift for an additional charge of twenty-five cents.

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ALLIANCE

Our Need of God is strong as His of us;
We are the halving of a wondrous dream:
He is as much, if not more, towards us,
And with a purer love, than we towards Him.

Miracle must be met by miracle,
The omnipotent Word by our counter-word,
The Christ-communicated call of God
By Man's chivalric "Here, O my Lord."

--By A. E. Johnson.

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RE-THINKING MISSIONS

PRINCIPLES OF THE SCOPE OF MISSION WORK

By William Ernest Hocking, D.D.

Its first principle is that the welfare of the individual's soul or directing self cannot be secured in complete independence of the welfare of his body, mind, his general social context. Therefore he who would minister to this self may choose to do so by ministering to health, or to the instruction of the mind, or by improving the social medium. He may *choose* this way of approach. But he may also find himself *obliged* to deal with problems of hygiene or poverty or custom before he can make progress in building individual character.

One of the pronouncements of the Jerusalem Meeting of 1928 declared that "man is a unity; and his spiritual life is indivisibly rooted in all his conditions, physical, mental and social." That "missionary work must be sufficiently comprehensive to serve the whole man in every aspect of his life." These words and this inference seem to us thoroughtly sound. The individual's spiritual health can no more come to him by some magic gift, than can his physical health.

It is true that the self has a degree of free activity: it may triumph in adverse circumstances. We have not to wait, before appealing to a man's will, until his health and income are satisfactory! A renewed spirit is a powerful factor, and an ally, in any struggle with impeding conditions. But we cannot omit to deal with those conditions. And if we are to build permanently and well, we must eventually deal with the whole cycle.

In this cycle we must include the social context. For if a man is a member of a badly ordered home or immersed in a sordid political group or is a unit in a social order in any way diseased, he will bear the mark of these associations. In so far as the individual person is an organic part of a complex social system a reconstruction of his life will ultimately involve either some transformation of the social structure or his removal from it.

Formerly, this interlocking of religion with the rest of life was recognized in the practice of removing a beginner in the Christian life to the missionary compound, where all aspects of his environment underwent an abrupt change. The modern mission inclines to

adopt the other alternative: leaving the individual within his accustomed context, assuming the slow labor of improving that context. This will require of the missionary a far more concrete, detailed and understanding mastery of the working of that society which he has entered as a visitor than did the former method of extrication. He will be a learner and a co-worker with the non-Christians occupied with the same task; and he will certainly not wait for a change of confession before doing what physical or mental or social good is needed. To him the Kingdom of God must be quite literally "like leaven *hid* in a measure of meal."

Here we touch upon a critical point. If we approach the spiritual life through its physical and social context, shall we continue to keep in mind evangelism as the main business to which all else is subsidiary? Shall these philanthropic activities be regarded solely as means to the end of conversion?

It was natural that educational and medical work should have been regarded as direct auxiliaries to the evangelical work of the mission: this was the way they grew up. For the most part, they are still so regarded. And as long as this view is maintained, it will furnish the principle of selection among needs to be supplied, and persons to be helped. it will tend to limit aid to those classes most readily brought into the church. When there is necessity for curtailment, those activities will be sacrificed which are least profitable in terms of verifiable harvest.

There is logic in this view: nor is it intrinsically selfish. The aim to elevate spiritual life by whatever means is not selfish! and whatever calculation there is in it, is to do good.

Nevertheless, when medical aid or education are thus consciously subordinated to explicit evangelism, there are unfortunate effects, including the quality of the education or of the medical aid. The service remains unselfish, but it ceases to be "disinterested:" it has an "ulterior object." The philanthropic object is likely to be pursued in a manner savoring of a commercial interest in the promotion of one's own type of piety and of association. This danger is perhaps inseparable from human agency in building institutions, however glorious their purpose. But when Christian missions fall into it, they provoke resentment on the part

(Cont'd on page 22)

BEAUTY

(GOD SPEAKS)

Where beauty dwells
there am I,,

For I created Paradise
with angels,

Flowers
and smiling skies,

The "Tree of Life"
with healing leaves

To heal a nation's heart
that grieves.

I knew that man
who walks at night

Had need of stars
to give him light,

And silver moon
of larger sphere,

The sun
when day is drawing near,

With dawn
in pearly robes of dew,

Sweet flowers
their freshness to renew.

I formed the oceans,
lakes and streams,

Painted sunsets,
gave man dreams:

I made of earth
a beauteous place

In every color,
form and grace;

I gave to birds
their notes of song,

To men,
creative genius, strong

To have his way
in helping me

Create still fairer
things to see,,

All this I did
for man and earth

To see if they
would prove their worth,

And thus far
I am satisfied

That man will conquer
and take pride

In helping me
free earth from sin

So we
a new world can begin

Free from evil,
pure and good,

Where all can live
in brotherhood.

--Ae'lis Churchill Chaphe.

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OUR 1955 CHRISTMAS CARD

With the 1955 flair in the popular tall, slim size—but not too tall and not too slim, three and five-eighths by six and five-eighths to be exact in excellent quality paper, French fold with matching envelope.

Especially designed for Fellowship in Prayer by Helen Dudley Young, the beautiful theme abounds in reverence for the true Christmas thought. In the deep blue of a Christmas night shines the Star of Bethlehem over the roof tops of all the world. The light of a myriad of smaller stars drifting down through the sky mingles with the white radiance of the inspired Praying Hands which rise from the landscape in adoration and gratitude.

On the left inside fold is a design melding into—

"Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright--"

In the center of the right inside fold is—

"GREETINGS
for Christmas and the
New Year."

Price and other detailed information will be found on the order blank.

Orders should be sent in promptly—and with the thermometer at 90 degrees plus, it's wonderful to say "Merry Christmas!"

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PRAYER—

O God, we thank Thee for Thy great gifts which, being closest to us, we most often take for granted: for health and strength, for food to eat and shelter—in a world where thousands and millions have not even these bare necessities of the life abundant. We thank Thee for our families and dear ones, who have given us life, and pointed our feet into the way of love, who have understood us when we were confused, encouraged us when we were lonely, forgiven us when we could not forgive ourselves, and reflected in their human devotion something of the radiance of Thy constant love for us. Amen.

--By Theodore Carswell Hume.
(Used by permission of--
Dr. and Mrs. Edward H. Hume)

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(Continued from page 19)

of their very beneficiaries, who feel that advantage is being taken of needs they confess in order to promote another ministry which they have not invited nor desired.

When Orientals talk of "proselytizing," a term almost universally used in a derogatory sense, this tying of an ostensibly disinterested service to a function of preaching is likely to be taken as its main illustration. This is one of the main points in Gandhi's criticism of missions. Such resentment is a fact to be reckoned with, if only from the psychological point of view. It is not directed against the reformation of individuals, nor against the spread of the spirit of Christ. It is directed against something which looks like adulteration of the quality of mercy.

Is there a point of principle here at stake? We believe that there is, and we desire if possible to bring it into clearer light.

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APPRECIATION

In this August issue reviewing our first five years, we are grateful to all who have given expression to the value of Fellowship in Prayer, particularly to those whose statements appear on pages 12-15.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to our loyal group of Contributing Editors whose contributions make up a large part not only of this issue, but of every issue. Ever responsive to our call and ever generous to their efforts to carry Fellowship in Prayer to greater spiritual height and inspiration. For all of this, we cannot express the extent of our appreciation.

Also sincere gratitude to--

Prayer on the cover - *(Sent by Mrs. Frank W. Lovejoy)*

SOUNDS OF BEAUTY - *By Aloise Tracy.*

GRATITUDE - *By Sara Robbins.*

ALLIANCE - *By Prof. A. E. Johnson.*

BEAUTY (God Speaks) - *By Ae'lis Churchill Chaphe.*

PRAYER - *By Theodore Carswell Hume, (Used by the kind permission of-- Dr. and Mrs. Edward H. Hume.)*

NOTICES and COMMENTS

CHRISTMAS CARDS. Too much cannot be said in praise and gratitude to Helen Dudley Young for her original Christmas card designs for Fellowship in Prayer. Also for her generosity in developing plaques of the beloved Durer's Hands suitable as gifts for any occasion.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH. It is enheartening to note that religious interest in all faiths steadily grows. But depth and sincerity must find root more firmly that the spiritual regeneration so much needed is achieved.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN ENGLAND has, undoubtedly, been greatly strengthened by The Harmony Prayer Circles sponsored by the Seekers of which previous mention in this publication has been made.

PRAYER GROUP IN INDIA. Word has just been received of the establishment of a prayer group in Poona, India. After further communication, we hope to be able to report more interesting details.

EXPIRATION NOTICE. You will find such a notice in the last issue of your subscription year. Naturally, your support will help toward hastening the day when Fellowship in Prayer will become established on a free-will basis. Meanwhile however, subscriptions, gifts, bequests and annuities are solicited. Please feel free to write us about Fellowship in Prayer.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE for the publication is: $2.00 per year.

THE PURPOSE of the organization is:

> *"To promote the practice of prayer among all religious faiths whose fundamental belief is in God, regardless of race, creed, or color, and whose tenets include the universal attributes of truth, honesty, justice and mercy, that thereby there may arise a closer relation to Almighty God and a deeper spirit of fellowship among mankind."*

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LOOKING FOR THE GOOD

The man that you dislike
  Is the man you do not know,
Since everyone has virtues,
  Though they do not always show.

When you really know a man,
  You will see so much to praise,
You'll overlook his little faults,
  And admire his better ways.

In your intercourse today
  Look for virtues, not for sins;
The man of noble vision
  Is the man who always wins.

--Grenville Kleiser.

* * *

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Send FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER to loved ones and frie

To

From